Derecognized private/aided high schools

1748. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private/aided high schools derecognized during the last two years, for the lack of required student strength, urban and rural area-wise, separately; and

(b) whether the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has increased the percentage of school attendance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Recognition of schools are granted by the concerned State/UT. Information on de-recognition of schools is not maintained centrally in this Ministry.

(b) Mid-day-Meal programme is one of the several interventions that has facilitated *inter-alia* improvement in enrolment and reduction in dropout rates. As per Selected Educational Statistics, 2004-05 of this Ministry, gross enrolment ratio at the primary stage has improved from 96.3% in 2001-02 to 107.8% in 2004-05 and the dropout rate from Class I to 5 has declined from 39.00% in 2001-02 to 29.00% in 2004-05.

Ban on recruitment of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1749. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on recruitment of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if not, the reasons for not filling the vacant posts in many parts of the country as nearly 5,000 posts are reported to be vacant in North Eastern Zone only; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (A) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. There are 4850 vacancies in Kendriya Vidyalayas spread all over India as on 1.2.2008. Out of these, 546 vacancies are in the North Eastern Regions (Guwahati and Silchar). Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has advertised in Janary, 2008 for filling up of teaching posts.

Semester system in universities

1750. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in recent communications to the Vice-Chancellors of Universities, the University Grants Commission has suggested the unviersities to switch over to semester system, in place of the present system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether semester system is in operation in several universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits of adopting semester system in universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a part of the Unviersity Grants Commission (UGC)'s initiatives to bring in academic reforms in higher education, the UGC has written to the Unviersities emphasizing, *inter-alia*, the need for reforming the external written examination and for making a beginning in this regard by introducing semester system. The Universities have been advised that the duration of the semester, number of contact hour per paper, per semester and relative weightage of continuous internal assessment and semester-end examination needs to be prescribed; unambiguously.

(c) to (e) The semester system is in operation in several unviersities. Universities having Engineering/Technology and some other professional courses are mostly running on semester system. The system gives emphasis on continuous internal assessment and reduced the written Examination component to a reasonable level.

Performance of Bihar Madarsa Boards Students

1751. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pratham, an NGO that conducted a survey on the performance of Class X students across the country recently, has listed the students of Bihar Madarsa Board on top of other students under the ICSE and CBSE affiliations;

(b) whether the students of Bihar Madarsa Board have scored a success rate of 91.4 per cent in Class X examinations, with the CBSE students falling behind at 86.4 per cent; and

(c) if so, whether Government would encourage setting up more Madarsa Boards in other States, to improve the performance of minority students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI. ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes sir, News reports on such a study/survey have appeared in a section of media.

(b) and (c) Since Bihar Madarsa Board, the ICSE and the CBSE conduct their respective examinations for Class X or equivalent, any comparison of pass percentages would not be appropriate. Each State is free to establish its own State Madarsa Board.

Universalisation of secondary education

1752. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating a scheme for universalisation of secondary education;

(b) if so, by when the scheme would be finalized;

(c) what would be the funding pattern of the scheme; and